

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

SAM-01 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 AID-05 IGA-01 /096 W

----- 006180

R 301439Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9789

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

UEHDT/USMISSION USUN 1993

CINCUSAFE

EUCOM

UNCLAS ANKARA 5111

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MASS, TU , US, CY, GR

SUBJECT: ECEVIT'S ISTANBUL SPEECH AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

BEGIN SUMMARY: REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN
ECEVIT AT JUNE 28 RALLY IN ISTANBUL, STRONGLY CRITICIZED DEMIREL
GOVERNMENT FOREIGN POLICY. PRIMIN DEMIREL AND OTHER GOVERNMENT
LEADERS RESPONDED SHARPLY. DOMESTIC TRUCE ON FOREIGN POLICY
ISSUES IS OVER. END SUMMARY.

1. REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN ECEVIT, AT
MASSIVE RALLY IN ISTANBUL'S TAKSIM SQUARE JUNE 28 (OTHER ASPECTS
OF WHICH ARE COVERED BY ISTANBUL SEPTTEL) ATTACKED THE DEMIREL
GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICIES. EXCERPTS FROM THE FOREIGN POLICY
SECTIONS OF ECEVIT'S SPEECH FOLLOW:

BEGIN QUOTE:

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THE FOREIGN SOURCES OF TURKEY'S DEFENSE EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN CUT. TODAY TURKEY CANNOT OBTAIN THE EQUIPMENT EVEN ON A CASH BASIS. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS UNABLE TO DECIDE HOW TO REACT TO THE UNILATERAL VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENTS FOR MUTUAL COOPERATION BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES, NOR WHAT COUNTERMEASURES TO TAKE, AND HAS WITH A 30 DAYS NOTICE INVITED THE UNITED STATE TO RENEGOTIATE. THE UNITED STATES, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS UNTIL TODAY NOT FELT THE NEED TO EVEN OFFICIALLY ACCEPT THE NOTICE FOR INVITATION FOR RENEGOTIATION. THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS REPLIED WITH WORDS WHICH MEAN 'HE WHO WANTS, CAN LEAVE THE ALLIANCE.'

THE BITTER TRUTH IS THIS: THE GOVERNMENT IN POWER TODAY IS IGNORANT OF TURKEY'S POWER, TURKEY'S RESOURCES, TURKEY'S PLACE IN THE EYES OF HER ALLIES AND IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD. THE GOVERNMENT IN POWER, EVEN IT MAY APPRECIATE THEM, IS UNABLE TO MAKE ANY USE OF THEM. AND THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT PRESENTLY IN POWER CAN DO NOTHING ABOUT IT... IN OUR AGE FOREIGN POLITICS CANNOT BE RUN THROURH THREATS AND BLUFFS-- ESIECIALLY BLUFFS. IN OUR SHORT TERM AS GOVERNMENT WE DIDN'T BLUFF NOR DID WE THREATEN ANYBODY. BUT WE HAD THE WORLD ACCEPT OUR DEMANDS WHEN WE ASKED FOR WHAT WAS RIGHTFULLY OURS. IN THE AEGEAN SEA WE MADE THE WORLD ACCEPT OUR DEMANDS, IN THE POPPY ISSUE, IN THE OIL ISSUE, IN CYPRUS.

THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN CLAIM THAT THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY WAS SUGGESTED OR DECIDED WHILE THE RPP WAS IN THE GOVERNMENT. THIS IS TRUE. YET THERE IS AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TRUTH: ALTHOUGH THE EMBARGO ON ARMS WAS DECIDED LAST YEAR AGAINST TURKEY IT COULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT. UNDER THE RPP, THE GOVERNMENT THREATENED NO ONE, BUT IT ALSO DID NOT SUBMIT TO ANYONE'S THREATS...

TODAY THE GOVERNMENT DELUDES ITSELF, FEIGNING AN UNCOMPROMISING STAND IN FOREIGN POLITICS, BY REMAINING MOTIONLESS EVEN BY ABSTAINING FROM DETERMINATION OF ANY CLEAR FOREIGN POLICY...

IT IS NOT SMART TO PROCRASTINATE ABOUT CYPRUS AND TO REMAIN UNCLASSIFIED

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FROZEN WITHOUT SHOWING SOME COURAGE TO MAKE DECISIONS. WHY? BECAUSE THE FREEZING AND PROCRASTINATION OF THE STATUS QUO IN CYPRUS WILL MEAN THE ISOLATION OF THE TURKISH ADMINISTRATION IN CYPRUS FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD FOR YEARS. THIS WILL CONDEMN THEM TO ECONOMIC STAGNATION AND PERHAPS EVEN TO A SUBMISSION TO GREEK CYPRIOT ECONOMY. THIS WILL HANDICAP THE EXPECTED BENEFITS FOR TURKEY AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOT SECTOR OF FORMING A FEDERATION IN CYPRUS.

THE RPP NEVER ADOPTED THE POLICY OF PARTITION...THE PARTITION OF THE ISLAND WOULD MEAN GIVING A PART GREATER THAN THE HALF OF THE ISLAND TO GREECE WITH NO EFFORT, NO PRICE, AS A GIFT. BUT TURKEY DID NOT ENGAGE IN THE PEACE OPERATION TO WIN LAND AND BASES FOR GREECE IN CYPRUS. SHE DID NOT FIGHT IN ORDER TO EXTEND GREECE FROM THE AEGEAN TO EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, FROM THE BALKANS TO THE MIDDLE EAST. MOREOVER, PARTITION WOULD UPSET THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE REGION AND MAKE MANY OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION UNCOMFORTABLE. THEY WOULD LOOK UPON TURKEY WITH SUSPICION... OUR CERTAIN BELIEF IS THAT THE INTERESTS OF TURKEY, TURKISH CYPRIOTS AND ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION LIE IN THE DIRECTION OF AN INDEPENDENT AND NON-ALIGNED CYPRUS, AS A HARMLESS BUFFER COUNTRY IN THE REGION...

THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO TALK AT US ABOUT A NATIONAL FOREIGN POLICY AND THE NECESSITY TO SUPPORT A NATIONAL FOREIGN POLICY. FOR A FOREIGN POLICY TO COUNT AS NATIONAL IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR IT TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE GOVERNMENT OR ASSUMED TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE GOVERNMENT. A POLICY IS NATIONAL AND SHOULD BE SUPPORTED, ONLY IF IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF OUR NATION, IF IT STRENGTHENS OUR STATE, IF IT PROVIDES SECURITY, AND IF IT BRINGS US THE RESPECT OF THE WORLD...

IT IS NOT KNOWN WHEN AND HOW AND WHAT SORT OF SOLUTION THE PRESENT DAY GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO REACH IN CYPRUS, NEITHER IS IT KNOWN HOW IT PLANS TO MAINTAIN TURKEY'S EXTERNAL SECURITY AND CONDUCT TURKEY'S FOREIGN RELATIONS IF THE EMBARGO IS NOT LIFTED... IT IS ALSO UNKNOWN WHAT THE GOVERNMENT THINKS OF DOING IF GREECE OBTAINS FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE EEC, AS IT IS

LIKELY TO ACHIEVE. AS FOR THE AEGEAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF A STATE WHICH IS CONFIDENT OF HER RIGHTS, USES THESE RIGHTS FORTHRIGHTLY. YET NOW TURKEY HAS FORGOTTEN HER RIGHTS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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HAS ACCEPTED GREECE'S INVITATION.

DO NOT THINK THAT THESE WORDS ARE MEANT TO RAISE TENSION IN OUR RELATIONS WITH GREECE. JUST THE CONTRARY, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS NECESSARY FOR TWO NEIGHBORS TO ENTER INTO A FRIENDLY COOPERATION... I HAD MADE THE SUGGESTION TO STOP THE ARMS RACE BETWEEN US YEARS AGO, A SUGGESTION MADE BY MR. MAVROS JUST RECENTLY.... YET IS ALSO OUR CONVICTION THAT FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES CANNOT BE ACHIEVED THROUGH SACRIFICE OF TURKEY'S LEGITIMATE RIGHTS. IT CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH A BALANCED RECONCILIATION OF THE RIGHTS OF TWO COUNTRIES AND THROUGH MUTUAL TRUST. IT CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH GREECE'S HUMANE AND EQUAL TREATMENT OF TURKS IN GREECE, THROUGH GREECE'S

ABIDANCE BY THE INTERNATIONAL TREATIES WITH RESPECT TO THE AEGEAN ISLANDS AND THROUGH GREECE'S RESPECT TOWARDS TURKEY'S RIGHT UNDER THE WATERS AS WELL AS IN THE SKIES OF THE AEGEAN SEA. WE ARE READY FOR A JUST SETTLEMENT ANYTIME, BUT WE ARE NOT WILLING TO COMPROMISE. THE STEPS WE HAD PLANNED WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS WERE NOT CONCESSIONS. THEY WERE DIRECTED TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD LOWER THE ANXIETIES AND WHICH WOULD SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF ALL SIDES CONCERNED.

IF THEY CAN TAKE STEPS ALONG THE LINE OF SUCH A FOREIGN POLICY, IF THES CAN MAKE THE NECESSARY DECISIONS AND COME TO AN AGREEMENT AMONG THE COALITION PARTNERS, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE THE UNDERSTANDING AND THE ASSISTANCE OF RPP, HOWEVER TENSE THE INTERNAL POLITICAL STATE MAY BE. BUT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT EXPECT THE SOLUTION OF ITS OWN PROBLEMS AND POLITICAL KNOTS TO COME FROM THE OPPOSITION. AND IF IT ALSO ABUSES INTERNAL POLITICS WHILE TRYING TO CONDUCT FOREIGN POLITICS IT HAS NO RIGHT TO EXPECT ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE OPPOSITION. END QUOTE

2. PRIMIN DEMIREL, SPEAKING THE SAME DAY, SAID THAT ECEVIT HAD DISTORTED THE FACTS. "THIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT CREATE THE EMBARGO QUESTION. IT FOUND IT IN ITS LAP. IT REACTED AGAINST IT AND EXERTED EFFORTS TO REMEDY THE HARMS IT WOULD CAUSE... IT IS THE RPP WHICH LED INTO POLITICAL IMPASSE THE VICTORY WON BY THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES IN CYPRUS. IT IS THE RPP WHICH... WITHOUT EVEN ASKING ITS PARTNER ACCEPTED THE UN RESOLUTION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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NOVEMBER 1, 1974 DECLARING THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES TO BE FOREIGN FORCES AND CALLING FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL.... TODAY THE GOVERNMENT IS FOLLOWING A PRUDENT, DIGNIFIED, REALISTIC, RATIONAL FOREIGN POLICY WHICH PROTECTS THE LONG TERM INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY."

3. DEP PRIMIN FEYATIOGLU AND ERBAKAN ON JUNE 29 CRITICIZED THE ECEVIT SPEECH. FEYZIOGLU ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT SAID THAT IT WAS "UNBECOMING" FOR ECEVIT TO DESCRIBE AS "BLUFF AND THREAT" THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ON THE EMBARGO. "THE GOVERNMENT." HE STATED, "WILL IMPLEMENT IN A DIGNIFIED, COOLHEADED AND RESOLUTE MANNER, AS THE NATIONAL INTEREST DEMANDS, THE MEASURES WHOSE PRINCIPLES WERE ESTABLISHED BY THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS." ERBAKAN, AT A PARTY RALLY IN KONYA, SAID THAT ECEVIT'S FOREIGN POLICY WAS "FULL OF NERVOUS MISTAKES. IF WE HAD NOT STOOD FIRM AND PREVENTED HIM, HE WOULD HAVE LOST CYPRUS THREE TIMES IN THREE MONTHS."

4. COMMENT: ECEVIT HAS NOW CLEARLY THROWN DOWN THE GAUNTLET TO DEMIREL ON THE CYPRUS, AEGEAN AND ARMS EMBARGO ISSUES. THE TRUCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION ON THESE ISSUES, AFTER BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNEASY, NOW HAS ENDED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, SPEECHES, PARTY LEADERS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA05111
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750227-0589
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975061/aaaaaoy.tel
Line Count: 224
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECEVIT'S ISTANBUL SPEECH AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE BEGIN SUMMARY: REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MASS, TU, US, CY, GR, (ECEVIT, BULENT), (DEMIREL, SULEYMAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006